Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

The retaining ring 10 is formed of a unitary construction and preferably formed of a material which is chemically inert in a CMP process. Plastic materials ~~Materials~~ that have been found to be suitable include but are not limited to polyphenylene sulfide (PPS), polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polyetheretherketone (PEEK) or polybutylene terephthalate (PBT), polyoxymethylene (POM), C-10 as is commercially available from Semplastics or other suitable composite materials. The mounting features 16 are formed by first drilling a blind hole into the carrier engaging surface 24 at a plurality of locations around the annular rim 14. A metallic reinforcing member 23 such as a threaded insert is then inserted into the blind hole forming an interference fit therebetween.